

CLIMACTERIS MELANOTUS. *Cli. strigá superciliari, guláque, albocervinis; lined ante oculum, alterá post oculum, omni superiore corpore, alis, caudáque, saturatè fusco-nigris; primariis, secundariis, tertiariisque ad basin, et humeris infrà stramineis; corpore inferiore vinoso; singulá abdominis plumá lineis duabus spatium album marginantibus nigris longitudinaliter prope caulem ornatá.*

Superciliary line and throat buffy-white; line before and behind the eye, all the upper surface, wings, and tail, dark brownish black; the base of the primaries, secondaries, and tertiaries, and the under surface of the shoulder buff; under surface pale vinous brown; the feathers of the abdomen with two stripes of black running parallel to and near the stem, the space between dull white; at the base of the throat several irregular spots of black; under tail-coverts buffy-white, crossed by broad bars of black; irides brown.

Total length,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches; bill,  $\frac{5}{8}$ ; wing,  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ; tail,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ; tarsi,  $\frac{7}{8}$ .

The female differs in having the markings of the abdomen larger and more conspicuous, and in having the spots at the base of the throat chestnut instead of black.

*Hab.* The neighbourhood of the river Lynd, in the interior of Australia.

*Remark.*—Nearly allied to *C. melanura* and *C. scandens*.

#### MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY.

Nov. 11, 1846.—J. S. Bowerbank, Esq., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

A paper was read by Mr. John Quekett, entitled "Additional Observations on the intimate Structure of Bone."

The author, after alluding to a previous paper on the same subject read before the Society in March last, in which he described certain characters peculiar to the bones of each of the four great classes of the vertebrate kingdom, by which a bone of each class could be easily distinguished, and after pointing out the importance of the knowledge of this subject to the palæontologist and geologist in enabling them to determine the nature of any fossil fragment of bone however minute, went on to state that he had ascertained that the cells of the bone bore a certain relation in point of size to that of the blood-discs; thus for instance the blood-discs were found to be largest in reptiles, smallest in birds and mammalia, and were in fishes of an intermediate size; and he had discovered that the bone-cells followed the same law. In the present paper Mr. Quekett stated the results of his examination of the structure of the bone of the perennibranchiate reptiles, viz. the Syren, Proteus and Axolotl, which have the largest blood-discs of all the vertebrata; and he found that in them the bone-cells were the largest also, which fully bore out and confirmed his former statement. Diagrams were exhibited which represented the bone-cells in the human subject, the Ostrich, Turtle, Syren and Lepidosteus, when magnified 450 diameters, by which means their characteristic differences were rendered very evident.

A second paper by John King, Esq., Ipswich, was read, "On a

Method by which all objects may be polarized under the Microscope."

The analyser consists of a double image prism placed over the eye-piece of the instrument, and a plate of selenite is then put upon the stage; the edges of the field will then appear coloured, while the centre remains colourless. Any object introduced into the field will exhibit the effects of polarized light with great intensity and purity of colour.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### ADDENDUM TO THE BIRDS OF CORFU.

#### *Platalea leucorodia*, the Spoonbill or White Spoonbill.

Corfu, Nov. 15, 1846.

THIS bird, according to Yarrell, is still an occasional summer visitor in England, has been noticed by Mr. Robert Ball in Ireland, by Mr. Eyton in Wales, and by Sibbald and Fleming in the Scottish islands. Of the northern regions its favourite summer resort is Holland, and Temminck says that it is nowhere so abundant as there. In winter it seeks a warmer abode, and flocks amongst other southern localities to the salt-marshes or sea-coast of Italy, being specially abundant, says Temminck, at Cagliari in Sardinia. In these islands the naturalist has not as yet recorded the Spoonbill, and the occurrence of the present bird, the young of the year, is therefore highly interesting, as offering another line or belt of migration. I received the bird with the blood quite fresh upon it on the 31st of October, and therefore conclude it was shot in the island itself. I was unable to ascertain from the bird-dealer (not the sportsman) who brought it whether others had been seen, but I conclude, as the bird was one of the year, or at least an immature bird, as shown by the beak and quill-feathers, and by the absence of elongated occipital feathers, that it was not alone in its flight.—J. E. PORTLOCK.

Corfu, Nov. 23, 1846.

*Platalea leucorodia*. On inquiry I find that the Spoonbill recorded by me as appearing at the close of October was one of a flock of about seven birds, three of which, all immature, like the one noticed by me, were shot. Signor Gangadi informs me, that though rare at Corfu it has been occasionally observed, and that he believes it appears every season on the Albanian coast. It is recorded amongst the Dalmatian birds by Dr. Carrara in his work '*Dalmazia descritta*' now publishing.

I observe also in Dr. Carrara's work, *Aquila navia*, *Ardea comata*, *Sterna leucoptera*, birds added by me to the former list of Corfu birds.—J. E. PORTLOCK.

### ACHILLEA TANACETIFOLIA, ALL.

This beautiful plant has been recently added to the list of British species by Mr. John Hardy. He has found it in two places, as he considers, indubitably indigenous and not an escape from cultivation,